

p r a x i s

News from Hartford Seminary • April 2005 • Vol.XVII • No.1

PMH@ten

Programa de Ministerios Hispanos Celebrates 10th Anniversary



By Efrain Agosto

One of my most memorable encounters ten years ago, when I was considering joining the faculty of Hartford Seminary as professor of New Testament and director of its Programa de Ministerios Hispanos (PMH), was with the volunteer committee charged with advising the program, along with then Dean Bill McKinney, until its director, whomever it would be, should arrive. They were about ten local Latino church leaders including a Latina Lutheran pastor, a Roman Catholic deacon, *Continued on page 9*

"IT'S MEDICINE TO MY BONES" Page 6



Ramon Cruz



Aida Santiago



Denise Cruz



Magda Rodriguez



Miriam Medina



Eli Echevarria

Kim Named to Seminary Faculty

By David S. Barrett

The Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary and President Heidi Hadsell have named Uriah Kim to the faculty at Hartford Seminary.

Kim will be Professor of Hebrew Bible, and join the Seminary's Center for Faith in Practice. He will start teaching in the fall.



"I am pleased that Uriah Kim is joining the faculty at Hartford Seminary," Hadsell said. "Uriah has an obvious love of the subject matter, and I am confident he will offer our students new

Kim wants to be "a public theologian who engages with teaching and research that connect the world of biblical studies with the world at large."

perspectives on the Hebrew Scriptures that connect scholarship to their life contexts."

"While he was studying for his Ph.D., Uriah was active in the community. I expect that likewise in Hartford he will spend time serving the community and its congregations," Hadsell said.

Continued on page 9

Celie Terry Prize Established

Through the generosity of Sanford Cloud Jr., former Chairman of the Board, Hartford Seminary has established the Celie J. Terry Prize to be awarded annually to a student who demonstrates a commitment to academic achievement and excellence in interfaith community work in greater Hartford.

Celie J. Terry was the long-time executive assistant to Cloud, who most recently was president and chief executive officer of the National Conference for Community and Justice. She died in spring 2004.

In her memory, Cloud established a fund at Hartford Seminary. The fund will be used to award the prize, which will consist of a set of Scriptures (Christian and Hebrew Bibles and the Qur'an) and a cash award of \$500.

President Heidi Hadsell thanked Cloud for his generous donation, and said, "It is wonderful to have such good friends of Hartford Seminary as Sandy Cloud. We are committed to interfaith under-

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

"We are committed to interfaith understanding... and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way"

- Heidi Hadsell, President, Hartford Seminary

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

standing at Hartford Seminary and to service to the community. This prize links our educational program and our outreach in a special way."

New Horizons Scholarship Fund Contributors Prior to July 1, 2003

The following donors were not included in the most recent Annual Report, published in December 2004, because the report only reflected gifts made between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004. Their generous gifts were made prior to July 1, 2003. We are grateful to all the contributors to the New Horizons Fund.

Mr. R. Regner Arvidson and Mrs. Carolyn Arvidson
Mr. John C. Batchman and Mrs. Vera L. Batchman
Mr. and Mrs. Hilary P. Bradford
Mr. Tom M. Castlen
Sanford Cloud, Jr., Esq., and Mrs. Diane B. Cloud
Mr. Douglas A. Cohen and Mrs. Phyllis F. Shikora
Mr. William J. Cronin and Mrs. Ann Policelli Cronin
Mr. Andrew Dudley and Mrs. Jessie Dudley
The Rev. Dr. Carl S. Dudley and Mrs. Shirley S. Dudley
The Rev. Dr. Lorraine Beverly Dunham
Rabbi Stephen Fuchs
The Rev. Ardith Hayes
Mr. Robert Hudnut and Mrs. Mary Lou L. Hudnut
Ms. Sally A. Johnson
Dr. Adair Lummis
Mr. Philip R. McLoughlin and Mrs. Rose Marie McLoughlin
Mr. Vanda B. McMurtry and Mrs. Maria E. McMurtry
The Rev. Loren B. Mead
The Rev. Dr. R. Blair Moffett and Ms. Patricia Moffett
Mr. William L. Rieth
James K. Robertson, Jr., Esq. and Mrs. JoAnn Robertson
The Rev. J. Richard Sherlock and Mrs. Diane L. Sherlock
The Rev. E. B. Stanley
Mr. Jon W. Webber and Mrs. Marilyn R. Webber
Dr. Judith B. Welles
Mr. Mark Wendorf
Ms. Nancy A. Wood

Sheldon Named Chief Development Officer



named Hartford Seminary's new Chief Development Officer, starting April 1.

President Heidi Hadsell announced the appointment. Sheldon, who is a member of the Steering Committee of the Development and Institutional Advancement Program of the Association of Theological Schools (A.T.S.), replaces Ronald A. Lundeen. Lundeen has returned to consulting work.

"I am so pleased that Scott will join Hartford Seminary, providing a seamless transition in Institutional Advancement," Hadsell said. "Ron moved us forward exponentially, bringing new friends and new financial support to the Seminary. I thought that he would be difficult to replace, but when Scott expressed interest in working at the Seminary, I felt we were blessed. Scott brings an understanding of congregations, a commitment to innovative education and a track record in development."

Sheldon comes to the Seminary from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he was director of development since 2000. At Princeton, he also was program director for congregational life at the Center of Continuing Education from 1997 to 2000.

"I look forward to becoming acquainted with the many people for whom Hartford Seminary has shaped their faith journey," Sheldon said. "At the same time, I welcome opportunities to make Hartford Seminary known to others who do not know about its mission, and to encourage their interest, involvement, and support. Even as I am being introduced to the Seminary, I will share my growing awareness about its mission with others so that they come to value its work and far-reaching impact in the world."

He said that he is impressed, given the size of the faculty, "by the extent of the Seminary's degree and certificate programs, and of its research capacity. Hartford Seminary is a unique center of

theological inquiry, a 'learning lab' for understanding and respecting diverse practices of faith. In this post 9/11 time, the Seminary's curricular and research emphases are all the more relevant and essential in the task of preparation for ministry."

Sheldon is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Prior to his time at Princeton Seminary, he was executive presbyter and stated clerk for the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, Syracuse, NY; associate executive for the Presbytery of Long Island, Commack, NY; and associate pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Northport, NY. Sheldon also has a background and degree in architecture,

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, and a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Seminary. Sheldon also earned a certificate in faith and Christian discipleship at the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches and the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and a certificate in church architecture at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Sheldon said that he decided to come to Hartford Seminary after careful consideration. "I have enjoyed serving at Princeton Theological Seminary for nearly a decade. I love the place and the people, and I consider myself fortunate to have worked with gifted colleagues. Coming to terms with leaving my alma mater has not been easy."

"And yet, I have held Hartford Seminary in high regard ever since I participated in a Congregational Studies Institute in Hartford some years ago. I came to know and appreciate the unique contribution that Hartford Seminary makes as an institution related to the Association of Theological Schools. Hartford Seminary's mission resonates with values that were instilled in me as a student at Princeton Seminary and at the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches, where Heidi Hadsell served as director some years later. My decision to come to Hartford Seminary is based, in part, on my anticipation of how the school's mission will be realized in new and exciting ways in the coming years. I feel called to serve here at this critical time."

"I am excited to be coming to Hartford Seminary. I expect to work closely with the president, trustees, and colleagues in planning and setting priorities that lead to significant accomplishments by 2009 - the Seminary's 175th anniversary," Sheldon said. This important milestone in the Seminary's life, while being a time to reflect on the institution's rich history

and impact on church and culture, will also provide an occasion to recommit to its mission with clarity of purpose and direction. I expect Hartford Seminary to become even more vital in its local, regional, and global impact," Sheldon said.

Sheldon was a leader on two study tours of Israel attended by Princeton alumni/ae and has participated in mission seminars to Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia; Cuba and Puerto Rico; Haiti; Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa; and Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He also attended assemblies of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver, Canada and Canberra, Australia.

Some of his leisurely pursuits include hiking, running, bicycling, gardening and theater. "Back in college, I spent a summer on a bike tour across the United States." His architectural background has led to interests in campus planning and new church development and redevelopment

Sheldon added, "I will admit to being a longstanding fan of the Boston Red Sox. After this past year, I can say that it was worth the wait!"

Lundeen will continue to work for Northwest Development Counselor's, Inc., which he has owned since 1985. Formed in 1952, it is one of the oldest faith-based fund raising companies in the upper Midwest and Western United States.

He praised the Seminary, saying, "Hartford Seminary is at the cutting edge of theological education because of its inter-faith emphasis. I've personally grown in my Christian faith because of what I've learned from both Jews and Muslims here. For those who truly want to make a difference through their giving, Hartford Seminary is the best possible place to invest in the cause of religious understanding."

He also welcomed the appointment of Sheldon. "In the world of fund's development for theological education in the United States today, Scott Sheldon is considered by his peers as one the very best. Scott is an optimist and person of profound faith. I am truly honored to be passing the Institutional Advancement baton to him," Lundeen said.

During Lundeen's tenure as head of Institutional Advancement, the Seminary's Sustaining Fund has grown from \$179,450 in 2001-2002 to \$251,400 in 2003-2004. It is on track to reach \$300,000 this fiscal year, which ends June 30. In addition, more than \$1 million in gifts has been received since July 1, 2003. And eight people have joined the Mackenzie Heritage Society, as people who have included Hartford Seminary in their estate plans, since June 2003.

Editor: David Barrett • Designer: James Baker

Phone: 860/509-9519 • Fax: 860/509-9509 • E-mail Address: info@hartsem.edu

Reprint and copy information: Articles may be reprinted if full credit is given to Hartford Seminary and the author, if bylined in *Praxis*. For our records, please inform us if you plan to reprint or photocopy any part of *Praxis*. Letters to the editor are welcomed. If you would like additional copies of this issue of *Praxis* or back issues or if you would like more information about *Praxis* or about Hartford Seminary, please contact David Barrett at Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

Buried Alive

A Sermon

by The Rev. Dr. Steven Blackburn



Sigmund Freud has not been too kind to religion, organized or not. It has taken dozens of years and some rethinking by his successors to wear down the hostility that psychiatry and religious faith have had for each other. In fact, many Freudians still insist that the religious impulse is, on balance, a negative in the fight for mental health, though one of Freud's followers, Carl Jung, affirmed just the opposite.

Despite the discomfort, then, of even bringing up the name of Freud in the pulpit, there is an idea of his that I would like to mention, for two reasons. First is that this idea is something most of us have

cannot have it both ways, we human beings are a resourceful bunch. We have found a compromise, a release, from being caught between the desire to be at rest and our passion to be fully alive.

You see, we simply bury ourselves in a shallow grave and say, "I'll just rest here and come out every now and then." So we pile on the soil and bury ourselves – in activities, in busy-ness, in recreation, in projects, and in God-knows what else: endless, but mindless, motion. I had a grandmother like that; she simply couldn't stand not being in the middle of an uproar (reminds me of my teenage son). And so she'd tear down all the wallpaper and start redecorating at the drop of a hat, whether the house needed it or not. She'd market every day, whether she needed to or not. She bought literally hundreds of pairs of shoes long before Imelda Marcos ever got the idea. When my grandmother died about 20 years ago, we found that the entire attic was filled with boxes of unused, unworn high

ness from the long arm of the law.

Up to this point Elijah has been worried primarily about one thing – his own skin. But that is not the focus that a child of God is called to. And so the Almighty questions Elijah, and gives him work to do, places to go, people to call. It's time for Elijah to get out of his self-made grave out there in the wilderness.

Only when the voice of God comes, does Elijah realize that it is his task NOT to worry so much about his OWN life, but instead how he is to bring the blessings of Life to others. He must raise others out of their difficulties, for in that lies the call of service. And so he will once again be part of the ongoing efforts to save God's people. Only in that is Elijah truly alive, all the more valuable than when he was brooding over his own misfortunes by himself.

Now make no mistake: Elijah's personal problems have not changed. He is still a public enemy of the crown. But he has changed the circumstances of others, bringing light and goodness where there had been only darkness, despair, and the grave.

Two thousand years ago, John the Baptist asked of Jesus, "Are you the One who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said John should consider the evidence – how through Him the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor learn the Good News – in short, how people are coming alive.

People are still asking the same question John did. "Are you the One who is to come, or should we look for another?" They ask it of politicians, of religious leaders, of institutions. They ask it of medical science, of Madison Avenue, of drug dealers offering instant happiness. "Are you the One who is to come, or should we seek another?" People search, wanting to live more fully, no longer to be buried alive.

How would we answer them? Can we answer them? And what evidence do we show, as did Jesus, that we can rescue others, as did Elijah, from being buried alive? Well, I can assure you, that if we are in our own self-made graves, piling on the soil with our own hands serving as shovels, then we are in no position to offer anything to anyone. How could we promise salvation to others, when we cannot even save ourselves?

If we proclaim that faith can move mountains, perhaps we should begin by moving a bit of earth from atop our own selves, lest we become buried alive. Then, freed from the grave, we can do what we are called to do – to bring the blessing of Life to others. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Steven Blackburn is Library Director at Hartford Seminary and Faculty Associate in Semitic Scriptures. He delivered this sermon at Hartford Seminary's Monday morning Chapel Service on October 25, 2004.

Seminary Team Undertakes Interfaith Efforts in Asia

By Alisa Dzananovic

A Hartford Seminary team that included President Heidi Hadsell and Professor Ibrahim Abu-Rabi' traveled in January to Singapore and Indonesia, seeking to strengthen the relationship between Hartford Seminary and Christian and Muslim institutions in the two countries.

"Indonesia does not get discussed often, that's why it is important to strengthen relationships as it is the largest Muslim country."

- Ibrahim Abu Rabi'

ent part of the world," said The Rev. Dr. Ralph Ahlberg, a trustee at Hartford Seminary. "The strong relationship between religious institutions and the people has been very impressive," he said.

The team spent nine days in Indonesia, part of the time speaking at a conference titled "Islam, the West, and the Rest," which was sponsored by the Islamic University in Makassar, Indonesia. The Seminary participants delivered speeches on several topics:

- Abu-Rabi': "The Muslim World in the Twenty First

Muslim Dialogue at Hartford Seminary: A Graduate Student's Experience."

While in Indonesia, the team met with university and government officials.

Hadsell said that the trip was very successful. "We strengthened our relationship with Indonesia and began a new one with Singapore. This was a trip that served our educational mission of promoting Christian-Muslim relations and peace and knowledge," Hadsell said.

In June the Seminary expects various leaders, including the Minister of Islamic Affairs of



Visiting Indonesia were, from left to right: President Heidi Hadsell, Guat Kwee See, a student, Professor Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', Beverly Ahlberg, Lavin, The Rev. Ralph Ahlberg, a trustee, and Professor Worth Loomis.



President Heidi Hadsell greets Professor Azhar Arsyad, Rector of the State Institute for Islamic Studies of Alauddin in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The Seminary team's specific goals were to attract students and scholars to pursue Islamic Studies and Christian/Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary and to contribute to an amelioration of Christian-Muslim relations.

The trip began with a five-day stay in Singapore hosted by the Muslim Relations Council of Singapore. This was the first "collective" initiative for dialogue with the country.

"The visit to Singapore has illuminated my perspectives of this so distant and differ-

Century: Challenges and Promises"

- Professor Worth Loomis: "Globalization, Business Ethics, and Dialogue: An American Perspective"

- Ahlberg: "Islam and Christianity in the 21st Century"

- Hadsell: "Globalization, Ethics, Democracy: Christian-Muslim Relations in the 21st Century"

- Beverly Ahlberg: "Women and Dialogue."

- Guat Kwee See, a student at Hartford Seminary: "An Insight into the Christian-

Singapore, to visit.

Both Singapore and Indonesia have a large concentration of Muslims living in the countries. Twenty percent of the 3.4 million people living in Singapore is Muslim; more than 200 million of Indonesia's 240 million residents are Muslim.

"Indonesia does not get discussed often, that's why it is important to strengthen relationships as it is the largest Muslim country," Abu-Rabi' noted.

Alisa Dzananovic works in the Communications Office

If we proclaim that faith can move mountains, perhaps we should begin by moving a bit of earth from atop our own selves, lest we become buried alive.

heard of and can understand and relate to, while secondly the concept itself is valid. What I am talking about is what Freud called the 'death wish.'

Now Freud did not mean that those with such a wish are in a hurry to die – or want someone ELSE to hurry up and die, either (!). It is a bit subtler than that. Rather, Freud recognized that human beings often yearn to escape from the burden of being alive. We wish we were free of life's stresses, uncertainties, and demands. We long, like a Buddhist striving for Nirvana, for quiet, peace, and tranquillity, if not actual oblivion.

To my mind, Freud was right on the button, at least for some of us. Remember the play "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off" – not that I actually saw it, but the title seems very death-wish-ful. Or how about the proverbial yuppie, whose entire focus is on E.R. – no, not the television show, but Early Retirement, when freedom comes from the noise, the decisions, the clocks, the obligations, the set-backs, the disappointments.

Yet not too many people are ready to pick up the phone to call their favorite mortuary with the request, "Take me away!" No matter how much we wish to 'be at rest,' we cannot completely shake our lust for life. Even when the pressures are the greatest, gnawing at our insides is the suspicion that we are important – that our life means something – to ourselves, to those around us, to God.

Although life often tells us that we cannot have our cake and eat it too, that you

heels, pumps, slippers, you name it, she had it, as long as it was a size 9 triple A. Fortunately, that's my wife's shoe size. Unfortunately, their tastes rarely matched.

There are other ways we can bury ourselves, of course. There is an interesting euphemism that comes to mind in this regard: "self-medication." Now I've been known to quaff the occasional cream sherry or apricot sour – for medicinal purposes, of course. Others use computer screens, or pills, or passing the time in front of endless re-runs, or soaps, or old movies. And I like old movies (especially the black-and-white ones), I've entered the occasional computer chat room, and there is a box of something at my bedside "just in case" I cannot stay asleep all night through.

The problem lies, of course, in knowing when we've crossed the line, and gone from "taking care of business" to burying ourselves alive, having used our own hands as the shovels. Because once we're in our self-made graves, it often takes someone like Jesus Christ to come along and shake us out of our self-hypnosis, to transform us, to get us to come out into the fresh air again and LIVE, just as when Jesus called into a tomb, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Turning now to scripture: In the First Book of the Kings, Elijah is on the run for having defeated the prophets of the false gods atop Mount Carmel. The powers-that-be considered him a dangerous agitator, and he is no longer welcome in society. And so Elijah escapes to the wilder-

PMH: Education, Faith in Practice

By David S. Barrett



“It’s medicine to my bones.”

That is how Miriam Medina describes El Programa de Ministerios Hispanos (Hispanic Ministries Program), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

“It’s wonderful,” Medina, a student in the program, said in an interview. “The past two years I have been through a lot of medical treat-

ment. PMH is the place where I can come and relax,” by immersing herself in an education that challenges and enriches her.

Or listen to Ramon Cruz who says that through the program he “learned more about myself than I suspected.” It has altered the way he lives his life.

The Hispanic Ministries Program began 10 years ago, offering its first course in November 1994. It was started to “help clergy and lay leaders strengthen their faith and witness to churches in the Latino and Hispanic communities.”

At its inception, it had students from a broad religious and geographic spectrum across Connecticut. That diversity continues today.

From 1995 to 2004, it has graduated 42 students, each receiving a certificate. When it started, it was a one-year program, requiring six courses for graduation. It now is a two-year program, requiring eight courses.

Medina and Cruz are two of six current or former PMH students who spoke recently about the program – why they entered, what they learned, how it has helped them in their public ministry.



“Paul is telling us to “be a good Christian. Don’t take the Scripture literally; let’s look at the context, see what it means...”

Miriam Medina lives in East Hartford. In her “day job,” she is Assistant Nurse Manager at John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, CT. Outside work, she is active in her church, New Dimension Christian Center in Hartford, where she teaches Sunday school and serves as a lay leader.

It is through her church that Medina learned of the Hispanic Ministries Program. Her pastor knew of her interest in in-depth theological education and encouraged her to enroll. Medina began in September 2003 and expects to graduate in June.

Medina could not be more enthusiastic about what she has learned, and what she hopes to learn. She describes PMH as a “good foundation” for her and says she hopes to earn a Master of Arts in theology eventually.

The program, she said, has allowed her to understand that the context for religious practices is crucially important. A course on Paul and his letters, for example, taught her that the Bible should be interpreted based on current culture, not the literal word.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul tells women not to cut their hair, to avoid being labeled as prostitutes. Medina says she has heard it said in some churches in today’s society that women should not cut their hair or wear pants. But “it doesn’t mean the same thing for us today.”

Rather, she said, “It’s not about your hair. It is about the way you live your life.” Paul is telling us to “be a good Christian,” she said. Don’t take the Scripture literally; “let’s look at the context, see what it means,” Medina said.

She has brought this understanding to her teaching in church.

Medina is an eager learner, who wants to understand the theology behind the Bible. PMH has just whetted her appetite.



The program taught Rodriguez to “accept things I cannot comprehend... not to judge other people based on what they believe in.”

Magda Rodriguez has a vision: To educate everyone at the new church that her husband started in the Hispanic Ministries Program in order to grow as Christians and in the process relate better to others.

Rodriguez, her daughter Denise Cruz and her son-in-law Ramon Cruz are current students in PMH. They started in September 2003 and expect to graduate in June.

Rodriguez, who lives in East Haven, is married to David Rodriguez, a Master of Arts student at Hartford Seminary. He started Grace Fellowship, an Assemblies of God church, in East Haven in 2004. They meet in rented space in a school. Magda Rodriguez is in charge of the women’s group at the church.

Like others in PMH, Rodriguez applies what she has learned in her work. She is activities coordinator for the Stepping Stone Transitional Housing Program of the Christian Community Action Agency in New Haven as well as office manager for her husband’s tax and accounting company.

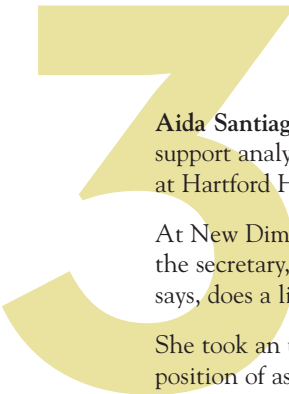
In a course on Christian ethics, the professor “made us think, and not just

accept what we were taught. We had to think about real issues.” In the class, they were pressed to discern, “How do you believe? Why? Prove it with the Bible and other secular sources. It opened our minds.”

Rodriguez has used this course in her job at the transitional housing program, working with single mothers and their children. It taught her to “accept things I cannot comprehend, to accept other values.” She learned “not to judge other people based on what they believe in.”

The program also has allowed her to become acquainted with other religions, even studying atheism at one point. This interfaith education helped her understand that “We’re all one. Your particular religion doesn’t matter.”

Two other courses also helped her. One, titled “Christian Education,” gave the class practical tips on how to teach a course, which she has used in Sunday school. The other, on Paul’s letters, enabled her to understand how to relate what the Bible says in the context of the culture of that time to what it means in current culture.



Aida Santiago lives in New Britain and is a customer support analyst in the Information Services Department at Hartford Hospital.

At New Dimension Christian Center in Hartford, she is the secretary, teaches in its Bible Institute and, as she says, does a little of everything as the pastor’s wife.

She took an unusual route into PMH. Santiago took the position of assistant to the program, which has classes on Saturday. While she was handling administrative tasks, she heard the classes being taught. “They sounded very interesting and I decided to enroll.”

She started in September 2002 and graduated in June 2004. This June, she expects to graduate from Central Connecticut State University, and then she hopes to return to Hartford Seminary for an M.A. in Scripture.

Santiago found the program to be an eye-opening experience. In one class, taught by a corrections officer, the class visited a prison and listened to an inmate tell his story. This taught her “the importance of listening,” which has helped her at her church. When talking with a parishioner, she listens, waits, and lets the parishioner explore the issue and arrive at a conclusion. Previously, she said, she would solve the issue for them.

Santiago encountered diversity in PMH, meeting and getting to know people with different religious backgrounds than hers. It made her “open minded to other people’s point of view.”

It also stirred in her “a desire to do more for the community.”

And she learned that “faith is a lifestyle, a way of living, not just something you preach.”

“I am a better person than I was before. I have been prepared to serve more.”



“Faith is a lifestyle, a way of living, not just something you preach.”

PMH Banquet

Hartford Seminary’s Hispanic Ministries Program will hold a banquet on Friday, June 10 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the program.

The Rev. Pablo Diaz, Director of Ministries for Guideposts Magazine, will be the keynote speaker. Guideposts was founded in 1945 by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale. It is committed to communicating positive faith-filled principles for people everywhere to use in successful daily living.

The banquet will be at 7 p.m. at Hartford Seminary.

For more information or to sign up to attend, please contact Marilyn Garcia, assistant to the Hispanic Ministries Program, at (860) 509-9512 or PMH@hartsem.edu

The Hispanic Ministries Program was providential for **Eli Echevarria**, pastor of Iglesia Bautista El Calvario in New Haven, for a couple of reasons.

He had studied at a seminary in Puerto Rico but he did not graduate. He wanted to keep learning and growing in his ministry, but he was petrified of his English-language skills. When he learned that Hartford Seminary had a ministry program taught in Spanish, “I thought, ‘this is my chance, I can’t miss it.’”

In addition, Echevarria had been called to serve a church in an urban setting. In PMH, he learned that “the way ministry is done in a city is different than my country, my traditions.”

“We do ministry in Puerto Rico without any social commitment. It’s about Heaven, the other life, the next life. But what about this life? The problems we have? Christians have a mission on this earth, we need to combine a Christian faith with a social humanity to help people where they are,” Echevarria said.

It was PMH that taught him to include social action in his ministry to his 100-member church in New Haven. He said that the program enabled him to “take learning and apply it immediately.”

Echevarria was in the first PMH class, graduating in 1995.

“I learned to compare my experience with other traditions. I was very narrow in my thinking; it helped me appreciate other traditions.”

Before he entered PMH, Echevarria worked in a factory. But he felt the calling of God all the time. To become a pastor, “the transition was easy. All my life I’ve given the best of my time to serving other people. In the past I felt I was a fish out of water. Now in the church I feel at home,” he said.

After his church had gone a year without a pastor, the president talked with him and said, “What are you waiting for? They respect you, they like you. He pushed and pushed. Finally I applied. The church received me unanimously.”

Asked why he would recommend the program to others, Echevarria replied without hesitation, “You are going to enrich yourself. Your faith is going to be richer, stronger.”



When I learned that Hartford Seminary had a ministry program taught in Spanish, “I thought, ‘this is my chance, I can’t miss it.’”



“PMH creates an appetite to learn more. (It offers) practical stuff to apply to where you’re serving.”

Denise Cruz says that the Hispanic Ministries Program is essential for anyone involved in ministry. “Nowadays if anybody is going to be involved in a church, they need some training. PMH creates an appetite to learn more. [It offers] practical stuff to apply to where you’re serving,” she said.

Cruz, who lives in New Haven, is a bookkeeper at her father’s tax and accounting company. At his church, Grace Fellowship, she and her husband are youth leaders and she helps lead worship.

She cites specific practical advice as a benefit of the program. The class in Christian education taught that “people learn differently. Know what your target audience is, how to help people learn.” Each student had to do a

lesson plan, define the target audience, set strategies, and decide what educational aids to use.

During the winter, she studied the Integration of Psychology and Theology, which has taught her the role psychology plays in Christian life. Should Christians believe in psychology, when the Bible is the Word? “Personally, I think psychology is of great benefit, it has studies and findings that can help us,” Cruz said.

Cruz also remembered the course on Paul’s letters as enlightening. She read about the people who elected to eat meat and those who didn’t. This can equate today to people who consider a certain action acceptable and others who don’t.

“I learned what to do with the grey areas in life,” Cruz said.



Her only regret, she said, is that the courses are too short. She wants to learn even more.

Ramon Cruz, a meter reader with the Regional Water Authority in New Haven, agreed with his wife that PMH “made me want to learn more.” The teachers “have so much passion, which they passed down to the students,” he said.

Reflection on Ten Years of Service

Continued from page 1



Efrain Agosto

a couple of school teachers, a dental assistant who was a key Sunday School teacher in a downtown church and a highly energetic Baptist laywoman who was a kind of “mother” of the program. These were not the most “high-powered” Hispanic people in Hartford but certainly the most committed and concerned for the well-being of Hartford-area Hispanic churches and communities, and their leaders. I was pleased to be considered by them as someone who could help nurture the program that they so clearly cared for in the years to come. So I came.

In the ensuing years, it has also been that same type of commitment and concern that has characterized the student body, as well as the PMH advisory committee. (You can hear from a few of these students in an accompanying article.) Again, PMH students, for the most part, have not been, for example, the established senior pastors of the largest Hispanic churches in Greater Hartford, in most cases not even the associates of these churches. (In fact, many of those pastors have been part of the advisory committee over the years.) However, the PMH student body has included Sunday School teachers, deacons, lay preachers and yes, aspiring pastors of many of these churches. They have come from such enclaves of Latino presence as Hartford and New Britain, south to Meriden, New Haven and Bridgeport, west to Waterbury and Danbury, and north to Springfield and Holyoke, MA. They have all come with a desire to enhance their knowledge of Bible and theology, and improve their skills in counseling and teaching, in order to serve better their Baptist, Congregational, Nazarene, Episcopal, Catholic and Pentecostal parishes.

To serve such a diverse community, we have not skimped on looking for the best possible Spanish-speaking theological faculty we could find in the area. I have been pleased to work with a very fine adjunct faculty who have taught

faithfully, some every year, in the areas of Bible, theology, ethics, church history, pastoral care, religious education, preaching, worship, church administration, urban ministry, spirituality and chaplaincy. In fact, I would say that the whole gamut of a typical theological curriculum – and sometimes not so typical – has been offered, at one point or another, through our PMH certificate studies. It has been a truly solid introduction to theological education in the Latino context. I wish we could do more – have more time, offer more courses, engage more faculty and recruit more students.

One thing is certain, given our success the last ten years, there will certainly be more years of this opportunity that Hartford Seminary affords our Latino and Latina church leaders. I am glad I said “yes” to Hartford Seminary ten years ago – and to that wonderful group of committed Latino and Latina church leaders who first encouraged me to come. ¡A Dios gracias! (Thanks be to God!)

Efrain Agosto is Professor of New Testament at Hartford Seminary and director of El Programa de Ministerios Hispanos.

Kim *Continued from page 1*

Kim said that he wants to be “a public theologian who engages with teaching and research that connect the world of biblical studies with the world at large.”

Kim received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, in 2004. Currently he is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, where he teaches “Introduction to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament” and “Introduction to Biblical Hebrew.”

When asked why he is coming to Hartford Seminary, Kim said, “First, I heard good things about Hartford Seminary from the people I respect and like very much. After learning more about and visiting the Seminary, I knew it was a place for me. I felt comfortable with the Seminary’s openness to the interdisciplinary approach and commitment to interfaith dialogue. I felt at home. I was convinced that I’d blossom as a scholar at Hartford Seminary. I

was also pleased with the opportunity to teach the ethnically, racially, and religiously diverse constituencies the Seminary serves.”

“I believe that Hartford Seminary occupies a unique and special place in the world of theological education,” Kim said. “Its commitment to dialogue across religions and cultures and to bridge the gap between academia and the public is a mission that is necessary to prevent the theological world from becoming parochial and isolated from the public sphere.”

“Without an institution like Hartford Seminary, the networks of theological institutions are in danger of becoming one dimensional and a univocal entity that ignores the voices and concerns outside the center. I am thrilled to be part of an institution that is innovative, people-friendly, and has the courage to deal with difficult issues that matter to the world at large.”

Kim has a book about to be published, “Decolonizing Josiah: Toward a Postcolonial Reading of Josiah,” which he describes as “a passionate post-colonial reading of Josiah, that, on the one hand, critiques the failure of biblical studies to come to terms with its colonialist legacy, and, on the other hand, connects the world of biblical studies to the world at large.”

His next book project will deal with David and his relationship with his God, women, men, children, and his people.

Kim was an adjunct faculty member at San Francisco Theological Seminary and Pacific School of Religion from 2000 to 2004. He was a visiting lecturer at Graduate Theological Union in summer 2003.

Kim earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy at New York University, a Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and a

Master of Theology degree at Emory University.

In the community, Kim was pastor of English Language Ministry (Young Adults) at the Oakland Korean United Methodist Church in 2001 and 2002 and Youth Group Director at the Korean United Methodist Church of Santa Clara Valley in 2000 and 2001.

Outside work, Kim says, he is “a news junkie, spending a lot of time surfing the Internet for the latest stories on current events and to read up on whatever interests me. I am a sports fanatic and love to watch all types of sports and am excited about moving closer to ESPN’s headquarters in Bristol, CT. But most of all I enjoy spending my time with my two wonderful children and lovely wife.”

Kim plans to move to Hartford this summer, before he begins teaching in the fall.

David S. Barrett is Director of Public and Institutional Affairs

Faculty Notes



In January, **Ibrahim Abu-Rabi'** arranged a two-week tour to Singapore and Indonesia for six people associated with Hartford Seminary.

President Heidi Hadsell and Abu-Rabi' gave a number of speeches during the two weeks and met with officials to recruit students and scholars to attend the Seminary. Abu-Rabi' also read the proofs of a book he translated last year, F. Zakariyya's *Myth and Reality in the Contemporary Islamist Movement*, which will be published by PLUTO Press in March. In February, he spoke on the Arab-Israeli conflict at Emmanuel Synagogue in West Hartford.

Efrain Agosto has been busy promoting Latino concerns in the last several months. In December, he and PMH Adjunct Instructor, Rev. Edwin Ayala, presented a workshop on Latino spirituality at the biennial Latino Leadership Summit sponsored by Leadership Greater Hartford and held at the Farmington Marriott Hotel. At this conference, Rev. Ayala received a leadership award for his 25 years of service to the churches and communities of Connecticut. Agosto had nominated him for the award. In January Rev. Ayala and Agosto were invited to appear on the Channel 30 TV program "Adelante" to discuss Latino spirituality during a segment on how Hispanics can approach the new year mentally, physically and spiritually. In February, he traveled to New London to meet with a group of pastors and church leaders interested in bringing PMH classes to the Latino shore community. Agosto returned to New London in March for a conference on "Excellence in Leadership" at the First Hispanic Baptist Church, led by Dr. Osvaldo Mottes, former Professor of Religion and Society at Northern Baptist Seminary in the Chicago area and a long-time colleague of Agosto in the field of Hispanic church studies.

Steven Blackburn continued his preaching in Congregational Christian churches in southern New England. He is also part of a committee looking into a reorganization of the Fellowship of Connecticut Congregational Christian Churches, where he was the Executive from 1988 to 1997. In addition, he spoke in March at the Oxford Public Library on Islam while continuing his program of reviewing new publications on Islam for *Choice*, the journal of the American Library Association.

Carl Dudley delivered the keynote address for the Church in the City Conference sponsored by United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, in January.

Heidi Hadsell published a paper, "L'Enseignant et Le Prophète: La Formation Théologique à La Lumière D'Une Théologie Publique," in December. In February she participated in a conference of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children in Geneva. Hadsell spoke on Christian ethics at the West Avon Congregational Church during their Women's Day Away in January and on "The Global Economy and Consumer Responsibility" for the Seeds of Hope group at the First Congregational Church of Southington in February.

In December, **Yehezkel Landau** took part in a Jewish-Christian-Muslim conference in New York and Cambridge, MA, involving delegations from Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia; He helped to co-facilitate a morning session. Landau was the featured speaker for the Needham Lyceum, at the Unitarian Universalist church in Needham, MA, addressing the topic "Peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine: The Spiritual and Political Challenges" He spoke at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, as part of a program entitled "Gateway to Peace: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Voices." In January, Landau gave the second of two lectures on Judaism at Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford. In February, he spoke after Sabbath evening worship at Temple Beth Shalom in Manchester, CT, on grass-roots peacebuilding between Jews and Arabs in Israel and led two workshops on "Religion as a Factor in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. Also in February, Landau co-taught a "Building Abrahamic Partnerships" course in Edmonton, Canada, for a group of military chaplains in the Canadian Armed Forces. In March, he presented, as a pedagogical model, Hartford Seminary's "Building Abrahamic Partnerships" training course at an interfaith educators' workshop in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the U.S. Institute of Peace. On March 13, he delivered the annual Raoul Wallenberg Lecture at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, on "Healing the Holy Land: Interreligious Peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine."

In December, **Worth Loomis** contributed a piece on Business Ethics to the Construction Digest. In January, he was part of the Hartford Seminary delegation to Muslim/Christian interfaith conferences in Singapore and Makassar, Indonesia, and meetings in Bali, Indonesia, with the Christian Presbyterian Church. Particularly impressive was a ceremony in memory of Tsunami victims attended by more than 7,000 people in Singapore. In February, Loomis joined Dean Joseph Britton and many graduates and trustees of Yale Berkeley Divinity School at meetings in New York City where they were

addressed by Bishop Desmond Tutu and former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright. In March he addressed a group at St. Joseph College on the subject of "Changes in U.S. Business Ethics Practice Over the Past 50 Years." In addition Michael Rion, former president of Hartford Seminary, Walter Harrison, president of the University of Hartford, and Loomis joined with Mark Scheinberg, president of Goodwin College and some of the college's trustees for a discussion of non-profit ethics.

Between January and April, **Adair Lummis**, working with Efrain Agosto, will update a study they did six years ago on education in ATS accredited seminaries of Latino/a students and on Hispanic ministry, commissioned by Dr. Edwin Hernandez, director of the Center for the Study of Latino Religion at Notre Dame University. Also commissioned by Dr. Hernandez for a 2003 National Summit Conference of Hispanic Leaders, a summary of a research report by Adair Lummis on what fourteen Protestant denominations were then doing to promote Hispanic ministry is included with other papers from this conference, in a just released (February, 2005) on-line monograph entitled: *Strengthening Hispanic Ministry Across Denominations: A Call to Action*.

Ian Markham was in India in December, delivering the Teape Lectures, a University of Cambridge endowed lecture series He spoke on the theme "Dialogue Done Differently" at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and Bishop's College, Calcutta. Markham is in the process of becoming ordained in the Episcopal Church and in January received a one-year placement at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Southington. He was the keynote speaker for the Yale Students Retreat in January at Berkeley Divinity School, where he spoke on "Theology of Engagement." Markham was an expert witness on ethics in the petition of the United Church of Christ against the State of Connecticut, re the Michael Ross death penalty case. He spoke three times in January and February on the best-seller *The Da Vinci Code* at Books Etc. in Glastonbury. At Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford, Markham spoke on "Christianity in the Light of Judaism and Islam" in January. The Seminary has assumed editorship of the publication "Reviews in Religion and Theology," and Markham is now the editor.

Ingrid Mattson is teaching a new course this semester, "The Maidservants of Allah: the Spirituality of Muslim Women." In January, she participated in the "Building Abrahamic Partnerships" course, led by Yehezkel Landau. In January, Mattson spoke at an event sponsored by the Muslim Student Association of Northwestern University (Evanston,

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

IL). In February, Mattson spoke at a meeting of the "Revson Fellows" at Columbia University. Later that month, she spoke about women in Islam at Denver and Stanford Universities and participated in a seminar on "Islam and Worker Justice" sponsored by Interfaith Worker Justice. In March, Mattson addressed the topic, "Circles of Community: an Islamic Perspective on Interreligious Coexistence" at Milton Academy. Finally, Mattson delivered this year's Russell Lecture at Tufts University on the topic, "Representing Orthodoxy: Muslim Chaplains and Expert Witnesses at the Intersection of Political and Religious Authority."

Wayne G. Rollins has co-edited with Professor J. Harold Ellens a four-volume work on *Psychology and the Bible: A New Way to Read the Scriptures*, published this past December. The contributing authors include thirty-four experts from seven countries demonstrating how various schools of psychological insight can be used with profit to interpret the Bible. Rollins has also been active in local parishes, preaching in Harwinton's Founders Congregational Church on "Why We Can't Afford to Be Non-Prophetic," and addressing an Inclusiveness Study Group at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church on "The Bible, Inclusiveness, and You."

A new book by **David Roozen**, with James Nieman, "Church, Identity, and Change: Theology and Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times," has just been published by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Roozen is also editing with Craig Nesson, Dean at Wartburg Theological Seminary, a collection of five case studies entitled, "Hearing the Congregation's Voice in Theological Education: Toward the Assessment and Revision of M.Div Curriculum." The collection of studies of innovative seminary programs to bridge the gap between seminary and congregation will appear as this spring's issue of Theological Education, the journal of the Association of Theological Education.

Jane I. Smith wrote the conclusion for a new book, *Islam and the West Post 9/11*, which she also co-edited. Among her lectures were: "Places of Worship and Meditation as 'Sacred Spaces'," for Denver University's "Sacred Spaces: A Passport to Colorado's Religious Sites" project, January 31; "Christian-Muslim Dialogue in North America," Lilly Conference on Theological Research, Pittsburgh, February 25-27; "What Do Young Muslims and Christians Have to Talk About?," Muslim Student Association, Syracuse University, March 28; and "Essentials of Islam," Flagg Road Congregational Church, West Hartford, April 21. Smith was Theologian in Residence at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, VA, in mid-February. At the church, she delivered a series of talks and sermons: "In Crisis Mode: Muslims and Christians After 9-11," "Who Are Our Muslim Neighbors?" "Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Are We Up to the Task?" "Compelled to Relationship: The Theological Challenge of Islam."

Scott Thumma, with Edward R. Gray, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Emory University, edited a new book, "Gay Religion," that was released in December. Thumma recently organized and hosted two consultations in Louisville and Indianapolis for the directors of Lilly Endowment funded web sites to see how the sites can be improved and work together to disseminate information to the public. He spoke on nondenominational congregational research at the annual meeting of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies in Providence. Thumma helped organize a New England Religion Discussion group meeting in Boston and was asked to speak at a Princeton consultation on religion and sexuality. Additionally, he completed a short book on megachurches that is being translated into Korean for his visit and lecture series in that country in April. In March, he surveyed 850 megachurches around the country in conjunction with the national Faith Communities Today 2005 survey. He was quoted in four newspapers in the

past several months and his work on megachurches was referenced in more than a dozen publications recently.

Thanks to the generosity of so many, the annual Christmas toy drive co-coordinated by **Miriam Therese Winter** and Chaplain Laurie Etter collected and sent gifts to about 2,000 children whose moms are incarcerated at York Correctional Institution in Niantic and sent gift certificates to the 75 children affiliated with the Pediatric AIDS unit at Yale New Haven Hospital. In January Winter's book on Ludmila Javorova, who was ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic underground church in Czechoslovakia in 1970, was published in Rome in Italian. She preached at the January installation of the Rev. Donna Manocchio, former associate director of the Women's Leadership Institute and now associate minister of Rocky Hill Congregational Church; and in February spoke on Mary Magdalene as part of the Lenten lecture series at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford.

Cynthia A. Woolever chaired the Research Committee at the January meeting of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership, which is preparing a national congregational survey for 2005. She presented a workshop at the 2005 Forum for Theological Education, hosted by Lilly Endowment, Inc., in Indianapolis in late January and also made a presentation at First Baptist Church, West Hartford, in February. Woolever was a participant in a consultation on practical theology and congregational life with other seminary scholars at Princeton Theological Seminary February 15 and 16. She delivered two keynote presentations at The Connecticut Ecumenical Small Church Project conference at the end of February and reviewed a book on Quaker silence by Brent Bill, recently published by Paraclete Press.



New Staff

Sohaib Sultan of Hartford is the new assistant to the Director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program, Ingrid Mattson. Sohaib is a first year student in the Seminary's Islamic Chaplaincy Program and recently was named the first Muslim chaplain at Trinity College. He earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Journalism at Indiana University. Prior to enrolling at Hartford Seminary, Sohaib worked as a freelance journalist in Chicago. He is the author of the book "The Koran for Dummies." Sohaib is originally from North Carolina.

Victoria Rogers is the new administrative assistant in the Development Office, working with Jennifer Schimmel, Director of Sustaining Fund and Database Administrator. Victoria lives near the Seminary, in Hartford's West End neighborhood, where she is active as a volunteer in the community and at her daughter's school.



ALUMNI/AE COUNCIL ELECTION

The Alumni/ae Council is holding open nominations for new members to join the council. It is looking for seven alumni/ae to join the council. If you are interested or know of someone who we should consider, please let us know!

Please contact Jennifer Schimmel, Director of Sustaining Fund and Alumni/ae Relations, with your nominations. She can be reached at (860) 509-9520 or alum@hartsem.edu.

Current council members are:

Mr. Abdullah Antepi
May 2004 to May 2006, MA

The Rev. Gordon Bates
May 2004 to May 2006, STM

The Most Rev. Dr. Lorraine Bouffard
Vice President
May 2002 to May 2006, MA, D.Min.

Ms. Cheryl Daniels, Scribe
May 2003 to May 2006, BMP

Ms. Marijane Lacedonia
May 2004 to May 2006, WLI

Mrs. Gwendolyn Lewis
May 2004 to May 2006, BMP, WLI

Mrs. Gretchen Mayne
May 2004 to May 2006, MA

The Rev. J. Alan McLean
Oct. 1998 to May 2006, STM

Mr. Frank O'Gorman
President
May 2002 to May 2006, MA

Ms. Karen Rollins
May 2002 to May 2006, MA

Ms. Betsy Van Loon
May 2002 to May 2006, MA

Fund Honors Ralph and Beverly Ahlberg

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich raised more than \$18,000 in contributions and pledges this winter to endow the Ralph and Beverly Ahlberg Scholarship for study in Muslim-Christian Relations at Hartford Seminary.

Ralph Ahlberg served as interim minister at the church, completing his service earlier this year.

"We were blessed with Ralph and Beverly's time with us, but you will continue to be blessed by their ongoing involvement with Hartford Seminary," Rick Derr, senior deacon, said.

In Memoriam

The Hartford Seminary community lost the following beloved members recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their friends and families.

The Rev. James M. Demetriades ('72 Ph.D.), who led St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Hartford for nearly 30 years, died in February at home in Wethersfield after a brief illness. He was 79. The central religious leader in the region's Greek Orthodox community for a generation, Demetriades presided over the construction and consecration of the Fairfield Avenue cathedral, which opened in 1965. Demetriades earned a doctorate from Hartford Seminary in 1972, writing his doctoral dissertation on the spread of Muslim cultures. In a 1993 interview with *The Courant*, he said he was concerned that American leaders were not trying to work with Muslims. "We do nothing but antagonize them," he said. "This has been the attitude of the West. We don't try to understand the people and what they are about." After his retirement from St. George Cathedral in 1993, Demetriades went on to lead St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Bristol for more than a decade. "I've had a rich spiritual life," Demetriades said in 1993, "and I'm grateful to the Lord for giving me health and allowing me to work in his vineyard."

The Rev. Robert D. Loggie ('61 B.D.), 68, of Southbridge, MA, died in October 2002. He graduated from American International College, Springfield, MA, and received a divinity degree from Hartford Theological Seminary. He was ordained into Congregational Christian Ministry in 1962 in Harwinton, CT. Rev. Loggie served churches in West Hartford, Watertown and Brimfield, MA. He went to Selma, Ala., to support civil rights in the 1960s. He also served as state chaplain at Walter E. Fernald School, Waltham, MA, at the end of his ministry.

Kathryn Leaf Rockwell ('51 MA), a resident of Seabury Retirement Community in Bloomfield, CT, died in November. She was 82. Rockwell graduated from Keuka College in New York in 1948 and received an M.A. in Religious Education from Hartford Seminary in 1951. For 10 years., she worked with agricultural migrants as Director of Migrant Ministry, Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches, in New York State and Southeastern States with headquarters in Washington, D.C. She returned to the Hartford area as Director of Christian Education at First Church of Christ, New Britain, for five years. For the next 23 years, she taught in the West Hartford public school system. She was an active member of First Church of Christ, West Hartford, as a deacon and member of the Memorial Garden Committee and Service & Outreach Committees.

The Rev. Dr. John H. Sunbunr ('51 BD) of Beaufort, NC, died at age 78 in May 2004.

William W. Tinsley II ('57 MA), 75, of Watertown, New York, died in February 2003. Tinsley was a social worker for several north country agencies until retiring in 1985. After two years of Army service during the Korean War, he attended the Hartford Seminary Foundation School of Social Services, where he received a master's degree in 1955. He was a member and elder of First Presbyterian Church. He did volunteer work for the Urban Mission, the Community Action Planning Council, the child advocate program of Jefferson County Family Court, Samaritan Medical Center and Samaritan Keep Home as a social services volunteer and the Meals on Wheels program.

Ms. Edith (Pittman) Blount ('86 BMCP), 75, of Hartford, died in April 2004. After graduating from Weaver High School in Hartford, Edith moved to New York where she graduated from nursing school and pursued a career in nursing for a number of years there. She moved back to Hartford where she was employed at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center and joined the nursing staff of several nursing homes and convalescent homes in the Hartford area. Edith received her early Christian Education and Baptism at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in her youth under the Pastorate of the late Rev. Goode S. Clark. Most recently Edith was a communicant of St. Justin's in Hartford, where she was involved in the music ministry. She sang in the choir and was a member of The Martha and Mary Guild.

Hartford Seminary only recently learned of these passings:

Ms. Esma R. Booth ('36 MA), former missionary Esma Rideout Booth, died in June 1988. She was a retired author and 40-year missionary in Africa.

The Rev. Arthur J. Siekman ('58 B.D.), of Islesboro, Maine, a former math teacher and ordained congregational minister, died in April 1998. He graduated from Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, and Hartford Theological Seminary. Mr. Siekman was a math teacher at Worcester Academy for 22 years. He previously was an ordained congregational minister for area parish ministries for 13 years.

Jethro W. Williams ('83 BMCP), of Windsor, formerly of Hartford, died in September 2000. Williams was a retired employee of the Travelers Insurance Company. He was a devoted member of the North United Methodist Church in Hartford.

A Plan Comes Together

From FACT to Impact: Research Based Resources for Congregational Development

By David A. Roozen



Some of you may recall an old television series called, *Mission Impossible*. Toward the end of each episode, once the seeming impossible for the day had become possible, and typically after a series of heroic near-failures, you would hear the refrain, "I love it when a plan comes together."

Well, a year ago you heard the plan in a *Praxis* article titled: *Seminary Supports Partnership To Assist Congregations*. It told the story of how the coalition of denominations and faith groups that conducted the *Faith Communities Today* 2000 national survey of congregations formalized their continued Cooperative Congregational Study Partnership (CCSP), with the approval of the seminary faculty and board of trustees, as a dues-paying, membership-based program located within the Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

It also told how at the first annual meeting of partners the group set forth an ambitious set of plans including:

- Creating and testing a financially viable methodology for a biennial national survey of congregations, each survey to include three layers of questions:
- A repeated set of items to track changes and trends,
- A specific set of topical items tied to a congregational resource, and
- A unique set of new items of immediate public interest;
- Developing an approach to congregational resources that begins with a congregational situation requiring self-reflection, and then builds a topical module of supporting national survey items for inclusion in one of the biennial surveys, the results from which get built back into the congregational resource;
- Building a capacity for and experience with qualitative approaches to studying congregations that would complement the organization's survey work;
- Developing a subscription-based electronic parish development newsletter targeted to congregational leadership and also linked to a website to continue established media contacts; and

- Extending the annual meeting to combine organizational business, review of recent research, and the exploration of new resource topics.

I love it when a plan comes together! A little more than half way through its first year the new program has already exceeded its projected membership income.

More importantly, its first biennial, national survey of congregations – *FACT 2005* – went into the field immediately after Easter. The survey uses an innovative sampling methodology that combines mass marketing mailing lists with the careful screening of addresses by denominational partners. It is being fielded through the Center for Social Research at Calvin College, a closely related school of the Christian Reformed Church, which is a program partner.

It will track trends by replicating key items in the original *FACT 2000* survey, contain a special module of items related to numerical growth, and include several items to measure the extent of interfaith cooperation among congregations since 9/11.

We all owe our deep thanks to the CCSP Research Task Force for their tireless effort to make this happen – chaired by our own Professor Cynthia Woolever, and including C. Kirk Hadaway from the Episcopal Research Office and Perry Cunningham from the Research Information Division of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

As the survey is in the field, program partners will also be piloting a new methodology that uses *FACT* national surveys to identify congregations of interest, which are then pursued by more qualitative approaches such as in-depth telephone interviews and case studies.

The intent is two-fold. One is to provide a test of the validity of responses to national survey items. The second is to obtain a more nuanced understanding of a congregational situation of special interest than is possible through a national survey. At least one partner, for example, is using the pilot to learn more about its congregations that combine high spiritual vitality and a strong connection to the denomination.

Findings from the pilot and from *FACT 2005* will be presented at the program's newly expanded, annual meeting this August in Chicago. Lyle Schaller, often appreciatively referred to as the dean of church consultants, will be a featured guest at the meeting. He is joining us for an extended conversation about changing congregational practices, which along with worship and clergy competencies are the leading candi-

dates for the *FACT 2007* survey resource module.

As is often the case with seminary programs, most of what goes on is not very visible to anyone except the immediate participants. That is **not** the kind of impact we hope for from *FACT* and its related ventures.

Indeed, our two primary audiences are, first, leaders and those who resource congregations – lay and ordained; and second, the public, particularly through the media.

Hopefully you will connect the latter phrasing with the exceptional work that our own Professor Scott Thumma led in our parallel development of the HIRR and *FACT 2000* websites. Scott will continue this pioneering effort to use electronic technologies to make newly emerging *FACT*-related information and resources immediately accessible to as broad a range of people as possible.

So add the fact.hartsem.edu web address to your "Favorites" list. But there is an even more direct and automatic way of keeping up with the emerging developments from the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership.

It is the program's new subscription-based electronic parish development newsletter, **Leadership & Transformation**, edited by Terry Bascom, a pastor and Seminary student, and targeted to congregational leadership.

Its debut was timed to the fielding of *FACT 2005*, i.e., immediately after Easter. Not only will it contain the latest findings and resources from *FACT*-related research, but it also will provide a variety of articles and perspectives on the latest developments in congregational development more broadly.

And where else except from Hartford Seminary will one find a parish development resource with a regular interfaith voice and cross faith perspectives?

For a free sample or to subscribe to the online newsletter, go to the *FACT* website at <http://fact.hartsem.edu>.

Join the partnership!

David A. Roozen is Director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, Hartford Seminary



Hartford Seminary's Summer Session will begin Sunday, May 29 and continue through Thursday, June 30. The Seminary's courses are open to members of the public on a space-available basis and carry three graduate level credits. Individuals who do not wish to take courses for credit may apply to take courses as an auditor. Many classes fill up quickly, so participants are

urged to register early to ensure a place in their courses of choice. For those enrolled in a three-credit course, the cost is \$1,265. The non-credit audit fee is \$575. A special audit fee of \$385 for those who are age 62 and older also is available.

To register, please contact the Registrar's Office at (860) 509-9511. Her e-mail is registrar@hartsem.edu.

To see specific course syllabi or learn more about Hartford Seminary and its faculty, visit our website: www.hartsem.edu.

Week of May 29 - June 5

Building Abrahamic Partnerships

Intensive schedule including some evenings

This course will build on Hartford Seminary's strengths as an interfaith, dialogical school of practical theology. It will provide resources for Jews, Christians and Muslims who seek a solid foundation in interfaith ministry. The course will educate participants about the beliefs and practices of all three faith traditions and help them acquire pastoral skills for interfaith ministry. *Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations and Co-Founder, Open House, Ramle, Israel (Program made possible by grants from the William and Mary Greve Foundation and the Alan B. Slifka Foundation)*

Week of June 6 - June 10

The Best Laid Plans: Organizational Development for Faith Communities (NEW)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The best long-range plans for your faith community will not yield the desired results unless they are aligned with the hopes, dreams and aspirations of your members. This course teaches a process for "visioning" and for developing organizational values, operational procedures and feedback so that a religious community's identity and program are aligned with those of its constituents. Resource persons (all of whom are recognized planning and marketing experts in New England) will partner with the course instructor in teaching class members the marketing and communication skills essential for communicating consistent messages to both internal and external audiences. Each class participant will develop a written communications strategy for specific application in her/his own faith community. *Ronald Lundeen, Faculty Associate in Practical Theology*

The Qur'an and Its Place in Muslim Life and Society

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

As the sacred scripture of Islam, the Qur'an has primary authority in the way Muslims understand their faith. This course will examine Islamic concepts of the Qur'an as divine revelation and guidance. Major Qur'anic themes will be studied in English translation, with reference to classical and contemporary Muslim commentaries. Attention will be paid to ways in which the Qur'an functions as sacred scripture in Muslim history and contemporary life, examples of which will include Muslim communities in the United States. *Ingrid*

Mattson, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

The Bible and the Habits of the Soul: Psychological Perspectives on Scripture

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This course is an introduction to psychological studies of scripture, focusing on the contribution of the life and thought of C.G. Jung, but including the contributions of other fields of psychology. The course will also consider the psychological aspects of the newer forms of criticism (e.g. feminist, liberationist, ideological, and contextual/ cultural criticism) to our understanding of the Bible and its therapeutic as well as pathogenic effects in the lives of its readers, past and present. *Wayne Rollins, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies*

Week of June 13 - June 17

Becoming Agents of Reconciliation in Congregations and Communities (NEW)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This course will use case studies of congregational conflict to help pastors, educators, and lay leaders develop skills to become agents of reconciliation within their congregations and communities. We will explore the biblical and theological theme: "Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice." Participants will be equipped to promote constructive dialogue in conflicted congregations on controversial issues from homosexuality to pastor abuse. *Robert A. Evans, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ethics and Executive Director, Plowshares Institute and Alice Frazer Evans, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director of Writing and Research, Plowshares Institute*

United Church of Christ History, Theology and Polity Summer Institute

Week 1 - June 13 - 17; Week 2 - June 20 - 24; 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Summer Institute is designed as a two-week experience primarily for those needing basic work in United Church of Christ history, theology and polity. The Institute is also designed for those students who are graduating from seminaries where a UCC polity course is not offered, or who are pursuing an alternative route to ordination. Sponsored by Andover Newton Theological School, Bangor Theological Seminary and Hartford Seminary, this year the Institute will be held at Hartford Seminary. For more information and a complete program brochure please contact Karen Rollins, Registrar at (860) 509-9511 or through email at krollins@hartsem.edu.

Is Religion in Trouble?: Parameters of Faith in the Modern World (NEW)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This course will provide the opportunity to look at the different ways of being religious in the modern world. It will draw from diverse examples, many of which are Christian, but will include perspectives from other faiths. The 'tour' will include the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and parts of the Pacific Rim. Particular emphasis will be given to looking at the European situation from a variety of perspectives - seeing what Europe looks like from within as well as from the outside (for instance, from the vantage points of Turkey, North Africa and the U.S.). Throughout, the course will challenge the notion that modernization necessarily implies secularization. *Grace Davie, Adjunct Professor of Religion and Society and Professor of Sociology at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom*

Major Religious Figures:

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (NEW)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This course explores the life, thought, and achievement of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (1874-1960). Starting with Nursi's context in Turkey, it explores the evolution of his thought from the Old Said to the New Said. Particular emphasis is placed on his apologetics for Islam in a secular environment, his commitment to non-violence, and his strong commitment to constructive relations between Christians and Jews. *Ian Markham, Professor of Theology and Ethics and Dean of Hartford Seminary, Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and Co-Director, Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations and Sukran Vahide, Adjunct Professor of Islamic Studies*

Week of June 20 - June 24

American Religious Megatrends (NEW)

9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Major changes are taking place in the religious landscape of America. How have they affected the local church? What do these changes tell us about the future of faith in this country? This course will explore several major movements having a significant effect on the ways religious life is practiced in the United States and globally. The trends discussed are the rise of megachurches as a congregational model, the influence of global Pentecostalism, religious pluralism in American culture, and the impact of Internet technologies on individuals and the local church. *Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion and Web and Distance Education*

Evangelicalism in America (NEW)

9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This course will provide an understanding of how Evangelicalism has come to have such a prominent role in American Christianity and how American culture, and Christianity in particular, are being molded by this dynamic movement. Special attention will be given to the ways in which evangelicalism has impacted the American political process. The socio/cultural dimensions of evangelicalism also will be explored. Finally, some efforts will be made to predict the future of Evangelicalism. *Tony Campolo, Adjunct Professor of Religion and Society and Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania*

Interreligious Dialogue: Challenge and Opportunities (NEW)

9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

In a world that daily provides us with reminders about the tensions between the different religious traditions in the world, this course will explore the whole issue of interreligious dialogue. Starting with some of the fundamental principles of dialogue, the course then moves through the areas of: ethical disagreement, exploring different belief systems, facing up to difficult political issues, and finding ways to worship together. In addition, students will be given guidance in how to start their own interfaith dialogue. At the end of the course, it is hoped that we will appreciate both the importance, challenges, and opportunities of interreligious dialogue. *Hans Ucko, Adjunct Professor of Interreligious Dialogue and Program Executive in Interreligious Relations and Dialogue, World Council of Churches*

SPECIAL SCHEDULE

Is There Such a Thing?: The Spirituality of Teenagers (NEW)

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the following dates: May 31, June 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30

Perhaps no other group within contemporary Christianity has claimed more time, energy, and discussion on the part of church leaders than that of teenagers. Despite the sincere intention of adults, adolescents often seem resistant to common evangelism. However, within the teenage world, there resides a dynamic quest for faith that is waiting to be "decoded" and addressed by faithful congregations and individuals. Using the words and experiences of contemporary youth, this course will examine the spiritual development of adolescents and their perspectives towards community, mortality, rites of passage, and ecumenical discovery. Effective ways of including teens in the experience of corporate worship will also be examined and discussed. *Robert Clement, Adjunct Professor of Spirituality and Christian Education*

STUDY ABROAD

Turkey: Faith, History and Physical Beauty

May 19, 2005 - June 1, 2005

This travel seminar, led by Hartford Seminary faculty members Ibrahim Abu-Rabi and Heidi Hadsell will be a unique opportunity to develop a better understanding of Judaism, Christianity and Islam during a special tour to Turkey, a country rich in faith, history, and physical beauty. Participants will visit: Istanbul, Ankara and Cappadocia, and Southeast Turkey. The \$2,600 cost of the trip includes round trip airfare to Turkey, accommodations, lectures, city tours, most meals, travel within Turkey, admission costs and guide fees (exclusive of tips). An additional charge of \$635 will be assessed for those students wishing to receive graduate credit. For more information about the travel seminar please contact Valerie Vick in the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at vvick@hartsem.edu or (860)509-9534.

Indonesia: Democracy and Development in an Interfaith Context

August 1, 2005 - August 15, 2005

This travel seminar will consider issues of Western/Muslim relations, sustainable development with special attention to recovery from the recent earthquake and tsunami, terrorism, human rights and democracy in an Indonesian context. Participants will visit Jakarta, Bali, and Yogyakarta: three distinct regions which together reflect Indonesia's scenic, cultural, and religious diversity. In each location, participants will meet with religious, academic, political, and civic leaders. Cost is \$3,800, which includes room, board and airfare. An additional \$635 will be assessed for those taking the trip for credit. *Judo Poerwowidagdo, Director of the Center for Empowering for Reconciliation and Peace, and Robert A. Evans, Executive Director of Plowshares Institute, will lead this special study opportunity in Indonesia. For more information about the travel seminar please contact the Plowshares Institute at www.plowsharesinstitute.org or call (860) 651-4304.*

1950's

Classes of the 1950's Reunion

Remembering the Good Ole Days

Hartford Seminary invites the classes of the 1950's to return to campus and celebrate their time here together. Join us on **June 4, 2005**. See friends, share stories, learn about Hartford Seminary today and catch a glimpse of who you were when you were students here.

More information will be coming your way soon! Please contact Jennifer Schimmel at 860-509-9520 or jschimmel@hartsem.edu with questions and to reserve a place.

Tentative Alumni/ae Reunion Schedule June 4, 2005

Saturday - June 4, 2005

- 11:00 – 11:45 Registration
- 11:45 – 12:00 Worship
- 12:00 – 2:00 Lunch and State of the Seminary Address
President Heidi Hadsell
- 2:00 – 4:00 Free time – snacks and visiting
OR group tour of the Mark Twain House
(optional)
- 5:00 – 6:00 Registration and Cocktail Hour
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:00 – 8:30 Remembering the Classes of the 1950's

Hartford Seminary
77 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT, USA 06105-2260
Web/http://www.hartsem.edu

Address Service Requested

Board of Trustees to Meet in Turkey

Hartford Seminary's Board of Trustees will travel to Istanbul, Turkey, for four days in May, at the invitation of a Muslim community made up of followers of Turkish theologian Fethullah Gulen.

The board will hold its business meeting on one day and then spend time with the leading figures of the community.

The Gulen community is committed to Christian-Muslim dialogue and dialogue with other faith communities in general. The community has several students studying at Hartford Seminary, and has had scholars come to the Seminary for sabbatical work. It intends to strengthen its relationship with Hartford Seminary through this visit.

Martin L. Budd, Chair of the Board, said of the four-day trip, "Both the trustees and the faculty have said that a key goal is to enhance the international visibility of Hartford Seminary. What better way than to meet overseas?"

"When we received the gracious invitation from this Muslim community interested in Christian-Muslim relations, and they would cover the ground costs of the visit, this was an offer that we couldn't refuse," he said.

Fethullah Gulen is well known for his activities in

the interreligious realm, his standing on the reconcilability of Islam and laicism, his public condemnation of violence in the name of Islam, and his stance on the significance of education in Islam.

The backbone of the Gulen fellowship is its highly regarded elementary and high schools — more than 1,000 concentrated in Turkey and ethnically linked parts of Central Asia, with other sites from New York to China. Gulen's supporters also run six universities.

The Gulen community also has a strategic spectrum of media voices: a national television channel, more than a half dozen radio stations, the Cihan news agency and one of Turkey's largest daily newspapers, Zaman, and several weekly and monthly magazines.

The movement is influenced by the concept of "Turkish Islam" formulated by some nationalist thinkers, and also the Nur movement that developed around the writings of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi.

The followers of Fethullah Gulen favor modernism, tolerance, dialogue and democracy without sacrificing religious precepts.

Gulen currently lives in Saylorsburg, PA, for health reasons.

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1381
Hartford, CT